THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Various facilities provided specially for foreign tourists are as under:

(i) Indrail Passes,

(ii) Foreign tourist quota for reservation,

(iii) Opening of Tourist Bureaus at major railway stations, and

(iv) Appointment of General Sales Agents in various countries to help foreign tourists.

(b) and (c) Harpalpur is a 'D' category station and as per laid down norms all the Minimum Essential Amenities have already been provided at this station.

Launching of low cost 'Palace on Wheels'

1931. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to launch a low-cost 'Palace on Wheels' to encourage tourism in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of the proposal;

(c) whether Government would consider more such low-cost tourism oriented trains to promote tourism in other States, like Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the status of such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) proposes to run a Metre Gauge (MG) luxury tourist train in the MG sections of Rajasthan covering Jaipur, Bikaner, Churu and Nawalgarh. The feasibility of operating the train has not been determined. Presently there is no other proposal for running low-cost 'Palace on Wheels' in other States.